

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

February 17, 2011

An act to add Section 66205.6 to the Education Code, relating to instructional strategies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 611, as introduced, Steinberg. Public postsecondary education: the University of California.

Existing law, the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and their respective institutions of higher education. Provisions of the act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, act to make a provision applicable. Existing law also requires the California State University, and requests the University of California, to establish model uniform academic standards, develop and implement a speedy process whereby high schools may obtain approval of their courses as satisfying specified admissions requirements, and develop a simple procedure to evaluate career technical education courses, as specified.

This bill would request the Regents of the University of California, subject to availability of funds in the annual Budget Act, the availability of federal or private funds, or any combination thereof, to establish and maintain the University of California Curriculum Integration Institute (UCCII) to be administered by the President of the University of California.

The UCCII would facilitate statewide collaboration and innovation in providing pupils with course content and experience within priority industry sectors among those identified in the California Career

Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education. The UCCII would also develop, disseminate, and promote career-oriented, integrated academic and technical education courses that meet course requirements for admission to the University of California and the California State University, and align with high-priority industry sectors among those identified in the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards as adopted by the state board.

The President of the University of California, in consultation with appropriate state entities, industry leaders, representatives of organized labor, educators, and other parties, would determine the priority among the industry sectors.

The bill would make legislative declarations and findings.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) California's public systems of education have a significant
- 4 opportunity to contribute to the state's job growth and economic
- 5 recovery by aligning middle and high school curricula more closely
- 6 to the needs of growing and emerging sectors of the California
- 7 economy.
- 8 (2) Studies show that high schools that bring together strong
- 9 academics, demanding technical education, and real world
- 10 experience are more likely to engage pupils, raise high school
- 11 graduation rates, and better prepare pupils for lasting success in
- 12 postsecondary education and careers.
- 13 (3) However, many California pupil now face educational
- 14 challenges that could impede their ability to be productive
- 15 participants in the state and national economy.
- 16 (4) Nearly 100,000 California pupils dropped out of middle and
- 17 high school in the 2008–09 school year, a number equivalent in
- 18 size to the population of the City of San Mateo or Compton.
- 19 Gainful employment prospects for dropouts are shrinking, given
- 20 the changing nature of the California economy.
- 21 (5) The Public Policy Institute of California projects that by
- 22 2025, two of every five jobs, 41 percent, will require a college

1 degree, an increase from less than one-third of all jobs in 2005.
2 Without increased degree production in the state's colleges and
3 universities, the growth of our emerging economy will be hindered
4 by a lack of highly educated workers.

5 (6) Large majorities of California pupils surveyed say they
6 would be more motivated to work hard and do well if they attended
7 schools where they could take courses needed for college and at
8 the same time have the chance to acquire skills and knowledge
9 relevant to future careers.

10 (7) A stronger and more integrated approach to learning — one
11 that combines rigorous academics with career education — can
12 engage and motivate pupils who are at risk of dropping out and
13 can create more options for them after high school, whether they
14 choose college or career. That type of approach can better prepare
15 pupils for entry directly into the workforce after high school,
16 without compromising academic goals and preparation for college.

17 (8) Investments in delivering pupils the skills and knowledge
18 needed for further education and employment in California's
19 high-growth, high-demand industries are investments in the growth
20 of a knowledge-intensive, innovation economy.

21 (b) The Legislature further finds and declares the following:

22 (1) The University of California Curriculum Integration Institute
23 (UCCII) has begun developing coursework that can accelerate
24 significant and needed changes in the way California pupils learn
25 in the classroom, and can keep more pupils engaged in school
26 through applied learning opportunities that prepare them for college
27 and career.

28 (2) The UCCII brings together high school teachers and experts
29 from across the state and nation to develop new, model courses
30 that provide pupils with rigorous academic content linked to real
31 world applications.

32 (3) Administered by the University of California, the UCCII
33 connects kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, educators with
34 faculty and instructors in a number of disciplines from the
35 University of California, the California State University, California
36 Community Colleges, private higher education institutions, and
37 statewide career technical education associations to develop high
38 school curriculum based on career-oriented, integrated academic
39 and technical education content. These newly designed, fully

1 integrated, “a-g” approved courses will serve to enhance pupil
2 prospects for postsecondary education and employment.

3 (4) Through the UCCII, California has a significant opportunity
4 to leverage existing infrastructure to better align middle and high
5 school curricula more closely to the needs of growing and emerging
6 sectors of the California economy by providing teachers with
7 supports and tools necessary to design career-oriented, integrated
8 academic, and technical education content. In doing so, the UCCII
9 can contribute significantly to engaging and retaining at-risk pupils
10 in the early years of high school as well as contribute to job
11 creation, economic development, and sustained economic growth
12 in California.

13 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to see rapid implementation
14 and scaling of the UCCII. Toward that end, it is the intent of the
15 Legislature, subject to availability of funds in the annual Budget
16 Act, the availability of federal or private funds, or any combination
17 thereof, that the UCCII:

18 (1) Facilitate no less than 10 convenings annually.

19 (2) Serve at least 500 educators each year.

20 (3) By January 1, 2015, have developed no less than 250 courses.

21 SEC. 2. Section 66205.6 is added to the Education Code, to
22 read:

23 66205.6. (a) Subject to availability of funds in the annual
24 Budget Act, the availability of federal or private funds, or any
25 combination thereof, the Regents of the University of California
26 are requested to establish and maintain the University of California
27 Curriculum Integration Institute (UCCII) to be administered by
28 the President of the University of California. The Institute shall
29 accomplish all of the following:

30 (1) Facilitate statewide collaboration and innovation in providing
31 California pupils career-oriented, integrated academic and technical
32 education content in a manner that provides pupils with
33 opportunities to experience the application of subject matter content
34 within high-priority industry sectors among those identified in the
35 California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum
36 Standards as adopted by the state board.

37 (2) Develop, disseminate, and promote career-oriented,
38 integrated academic and technical education courses that meet
39 course requirements for admission to the University of California
40 and the California State University, and align with high-priority

1 industry sectors among those identified in the California Career
2 Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards as adopted by
3 the state board.

4 (b) For purposes of subdivision (a), the President of the
5 University of California, in consultation with appropriate state
6 entities, industry leaders, representatives of organized labor,
7 educators, and other parties, shall determine the priority among
8 the industry sectors.

9 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Regents of
10 the University of California are requested to establish procedures
11 and forms to administer the institute only if the regents, by
12 resolution, make these provisions applicable.

O